How to Find Out if Lead May Be in Your Drinking Water

As a leader in the nation in lead exposure prevention, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends that Michigan households take the necessary steps to Get Ahead of Lead to stay safe and protect against the threat of lead in drinking water. Learn more about the statewide "Get Ahead of Lead" strategy by visiting Michigan.gov/GetAheadofLead.

MDHHS recommends that all Michigan households use a certified lead-reducing drinking water filter if their home has or if they are uncertain if it has one of the following:

- Lead or galvanized plumbing.
- A lead service line carrying water from the street to their residence.
- Old faucets and fittings that were sold before 2014.

Use a filter until you are able to remove sources of household lead plumbing, such as:

- Replace pre-2014 faucets.
- Get a lead inspection and replace needed plumbing.

If you would like to find out if lead is in your drinking water, follow the suggestions below.

Check your home's plumbing

- Older plumbing and faucets can be made of materials like lead that can harm your health. These could get into your drinking water.
  - Faucets made before 2014 may contain lead. Regulations in 2014 lowered the amount of lead allowed in faucets.
  - Older homes may be more likely to have plumbing which used lead, such as leaded or galvanized pipes or copper with lead solder.
- Check your home's plumbing or hire a plumber to learn if any of your plumbing may contain lead.
  - Visit Eh.Michigan.gov/HomePlumbingChecklist for the MDHHS Home Plumbing Lead Checklist to help you find out if your home's plumbing might contain lead or visit Michigan.gov/GetAheadofLead and click on the "How to Find Out if You Have a Service Line Made of Lead" link to watch a short video on checking your home's plumbing for lead.

Test your drinking water

The water coming to your home may already be regularly tested for certain contaminants depending on your water supply. For lead, it can vary from home to home based on the service line and home plumbing type.

- If you have older faucets or live in an older home with plumbing that is more likely to have lead, you should strongly consider testing your drinking water for lead.
- If you have a private residential well, water testing is your responsibility. **MDHHS recommends testing well water for lead every three to five years.**
- Those on city/community residential water should check for water test results with their local water supplier. Community water reports show if there are other homes on your water supply that have lead. **If your community's water supply test results show lead in other homes in your area, this means you may want to also test your water.**
- There is no way to be sure if there is lead in your drinking water unless you test the water coming directly into your home. A water sample will tell you if lead is currently in your water. It will not give you past or future results.
- Information on how to test your water and where to find city/community residential water supply results can be found at Michigan.gov/CareforMiDrinkingWater.

If any lead is in your drinking water, take action to reduce it, especially if children or pregnant people live in the home. Children under 6 years old are most at risk of the health effects related to lead exposure. If you are pregnant, lead can harm your baby.

If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, go to Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe to learn more about the following ways you can reduce your exposure.

Visit Eh.Michigan.gov/DW-Testing to learn how to test your drinking water.

Visit Michigan.gov/GetAheadofLead to learn how to keep your water moving.

Visit Eh.Michigan.gov/EPAFilterGuide2024 to learn about drinking water filters.

Visit Eh.Michigan.gov/CleaningYourAerators to learn how to clean your faucet aerators.

For more information

MDHHS Care for Mi Drinking Water Website
800-648-6942
Michigan.gov/CareforMiDrinkingWater

Mi Lead Safe Website
Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe

Get Ahead of Lead Website
Michigan.gov/GetAheadofLead

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Michigan.gov/DrinkingWater
Michigan.gov/WaterWellConstruction

Laboratory Services
Michigan.gov/EGLElab

List of local health departments
Eh.Michigan.gov/MiHealthDepartment

MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

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